

Governor did not see fit to veto them. "He didn't have much of a reason other than it was Bum Bright's bill," Campbell said of Gov. White's veto. "All that it's done is delay a vitally needed highway."

NOTES: Gov. White vetoed another of the Denton County development bills, HB 2439 by Campbell (see pages 18 and 19). However the Governor did sign both HB 2391 by Campbell, which creates a Reclamation, Road, and Utility District in the area, and HB 2394 by Horn, which creates Denton County Levee Improvement District No. 1.

Communicating with state-agency adjudicators  
(SB 189 by Blake)

DIGEST: This bill would have allowed anyone to communicate in writing with state-agency employees assigned to decide a contested case, without having to give all the parties to the case an opportunity to participate. Anyone making such a communication would have been required to provide copies of the communication, on request, to the other parties.

GOVERNOR'S  
REASONS  
FOR VETO:

The Governor said the bill could have violated due process and the right to confrontation because it would have permitted persons to make ex parte written communications with state-agency decision makers. "To permit enactment of this bill could seriously undermine the integrity and trustworthiness of these adjudicatory proceedings....,"he said.

SPONSOR'S  
VIEW:

Sen. Blake had no comment on the veto.

NOTES:

An ex parte communication is one between the adjudicator and a party to a case in which other parties to the case cannot participate.

Mental-health administrator for Harris County Probate Court No. 3  
(SB 334 by Whitmire)

DIGEST: SB 334 would have allowed the judge of Harris County Probate Court No. 3 to hire a mental-health administrator to assist in the handling of mental-health cases. The judge would have set the administrator's salary at between 65 percent and 75

percent of the annual salary the county paid the judge. The administrator would have been paid in the same manner as other county employees and would have been entitled to the same employment benefits.

GOVERNOR'S  
REASONS  
FOR VETO:

The Governor said the Harris County Commissioners Court had unanimously requested a veto of SB 334. The position of mental-health administrator for Probate Court No. 3 is now funded at the same salary level as other court administrators, and the Commissioners Court thought the position should not receive preferential treatment. Commissioners also expressed budgetary concerns. The Governor said the bill dealt with a local matter and should be resolved by the government entity locally responsible.

SPONSOR'S  
VIEW:

Sen. Whitmire declined comment.

Inmates' parole review  
(SB 518 by Farabee)

DIGEST: This bill would have required the Board of Pardons and Paroles to establish a tentative parole month for each TDC inmate within 120 days of his or her incarceration. The board would then have been required to release inmates during their tentative parole month unless it determined that an inmate's release would endanger the public or that the inmate had failed to make rehabilitative progress.

GOVERNOR'S  
REASONS  
FOR VETO:

The Governor said the bill could improperly limit the Board of Pardons and Paroles' discretion in determining when a prisoner should be released on parole. "Because this bill would establish a procedure which could be interpreted to require the Board to release prisoners earlier than might be prudent, it establishes questionable policy. No prisoner should be released until he has either served his entire sentence or shown by his conduct and other circumstances that he can be safely released into society," the Governor said.